



# Satisfaction among Physical Therapy Educators about Current Physical Therapy Education in Pakistan

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Physical therapy is a growing profession with emphasis on continuous improvement of knowledge and skills. Physical therapy educators have to be vigilant enough to stay up to date as they are the role models of the students. These educators also face certain hurdles which can affect their performance badly.

**Objective:** The objective of this study was to determine the level of satisfaction among educators about current physical therapy education in Pakistan.

**Methodology:** A cross sectional survey was designed to carry out the study from October 2013 to April 2014. Purposive sampling technique was used to recruit sample. A self structured pre tested questionnaire was distributed among 150 educators working in various teaching institutes in Federal Capital Islamabad, and four provincial capitals. Out of 150 educators, 123 educators filled and returned the questionnaire.

**Results:** According to the results of the study, 105 (86%) participants were dissatisfied because they believed that physical therapy institutes should be affiliated by health universities only, 120 (98%) participants were dissatisfied because of the non availability of certified faculty in the teaching institutes. All the physical therapy educators showed dissatisfaction due to the absence of physical therapy council to set standards for physical therapy education.

**Conclusion:** It is evident from the results of study that physical therapy educators are not currently satisfied with education system due to not certified faculty available in the physical therapy institutes and an absence of licensing and regulatory authority to set standards for physical therapy education and clinical practice. Improvement is needed in current physical therapy education standards in the country.

**Key Words:** Satisfaction Level, Physical Therapy Educators, Physical Therapy Education.

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## INTRODUCTION

Physical therapy is a health care profession concerned with human movement dysfunction and maximizing functional potential of the patients<sup>(1)</sup>. In the developed countries, Doctor of Physical Therapy program have been started and physical therapists are now recognized as independent practitioners<sup>(2)</sup>. Various medical universities and institutes in public and private sectors of Pakistan have started different programs in physical therapy at undergraduate and graduate level.

Recent literature suggests that educators in colleges and universities in the USA are facing hard times and that quality of teaching and education may be in danger. It has been stated that educators are disheartened, working environment is challenging, and issues concerning teaching and research

are time and again conflict-ridden. In particular, junior academicians feel isolated, and their lives are struck by anxiety and stress. The agendas of current physical therapy meetings and publications have been the problems faced by academicians and their effects on educational level<sup>(3)</sup>.

In Pakistan most of the health care fields are under the process of development, amongst the health care professions physiotherapy is one of the neglected field. Unfortunately, there is no physiotherapy council for physiotherapy education in Pakistan like; Pakistan medical and dental council, Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council and Pharmacy Council of Pakistan. An effort has been made by the professionals in forming a local regulatory body named Pakistan Physical therapy Association (PPTA) which is working to get a constitutional and



legal status. They have their own limitations like lack of proper leadership, funds and coordination among the professionals and association. Due to lack of a constitutional cover, there has been mushrooming of institutes which are offering sub-standard education, below par facilities and no job security. These reasons have apparently created a lot of dissatisfaction for physical therapy educators in the country and this study intend to assess the satisfaction level and reasons for dissatisfaction <sup>(4)</sup>.

## METHODOLOGY

This cross sectional study was done from October 2013 to April 2014 from different physical therapy institutes operating in Federal capital and four provincial capitals of Pakistan. Purposive sampling technique was used. Initially 150 participants were approached out of which 123 responded. All those participants were included in the study that had more than one year experience in physical therapy academics, having at least 4 year graduate degree from a recognized college. Those having less than one year experience and fresh graduates were excluded. Data was collected by self generated pre tested questionnaire regarding level of satisfaction about their profession and physical therapy education.

## RESULTS

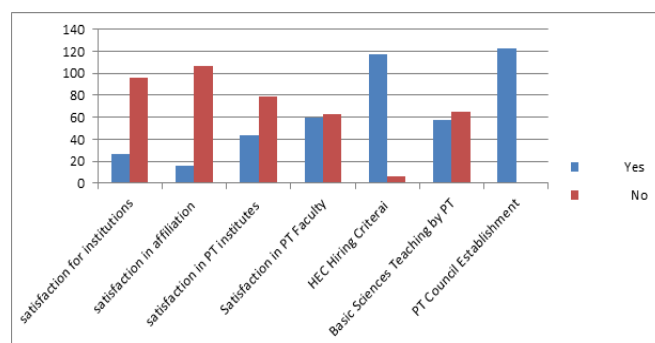
The response rate of participants in this study was 82% (123). There were 92 (75%) males and 31 (25%) female. Mean age of the participants was  $28.75 \pm 2.35$ .

**Table 1: showing cumulative results of different themes in study**

Themes	Yes	No
Satisfaction among Educators Regarding Institutions Affiliation Criteria	27	96
Satisfaction in affiliation with none medical universities	16	107
level of Satisfaction in Physical therapy institutes infrastructure facilities	44	79
Level of Satisfaction in Physical therapy teaching Faculty	60	63
HEC Hiring teaching faculty Criteria is followed	117	6
Basic Sciences Teaching by Physical therapist	58	65
Physical therapy education satisfaction with Physical therapy Council Establishment	123	0

There were 96 (78%) participants that were unsatisfied with physical therapy institutions affiliation criteria. 107(87%) participants reported that physical therapy program can only be affiliated with medical universities. 79 (64 %) participants revealed that they were not satisfied with physical therapy institutions infrastructure. There were 63 (51%) participants who were expressed their dissatisfaction with current teaching faculties in institutes. 117 (95%) participants reported that all institutes should consider the criterion laid down by HEC for hiring teaching faculty in institutes.

**Graph I: showing cumulative results of different themes in study**



115 (93%) Participants reported that DPT should be the entry level qualification and 65 (52%) participants reported that basic medical subjects should only be taught by certified subject specialists rather than physical therapist. 87(70%) participants expressed their dissatisfaction with the current salary packages and 123 (100 %) participants reported that physical therapy education standards can be improved with the establishment of physical therapy council. (Results of all themes are cumulatively showed in table and graph I)

## DISCUSSION

A study on the quality of education done among the European graduates about the level of satisfaction with higher education explored ratios about satisfaction level among higher education graduates with their post secondary education. Outcomes of this study proved that graduates who were most satisfied with their course of study scored course



content, and social quality very highly while chance to contribute in research task and poor providence of education materials were among the main motive for dissatisfaction with higher education learning<sup>(5)</sup>.

A study on undergraduate nursing students was done which concludes with the requirement to provide evidence for the outcome of laboratories learning and investigate suitable educational methods for effective learning and teaching of practice skills<sup>(6)</sup>. Regarding results about institutions infrastructure, thirty-five participants of this study agreed that they are satisfied with current physical therapy institutions while sixty-four percent participants disagreed, most of the participants were not satisfied with physical therapy institutions infrastructure/facilities.

A study about framework for analysis in Physical therapist education supported entry level doctor of physical therapy program for a competent practitioner<sup>(7)</sup>. Five years DPT program started seven years back in Pakistan, and now every current health university announces admission only in DPT on FSc (Pre-medical) instead of BS Physical therapy as in my study participants were asked about the entry level qualification in which ninety-one percent participants agreed that DPT should be entry level qualification in all physical therapy institutes they showed their satisfaction in DPT education. Regarding results about institutions infrastructure, thirty-five participants of this study agreed that they are satisfied with current physical therapy institutions while sixty-four percent participants disagreed, most of the participants were not satisfied with physical therapy institutions infrastructure/facilities.

A pilot study on faculty development was done they concluded that training have significant effect to improve basic sciences instructors teaching effectiveness<sup>(8)</sup>.

Another study about teaching skills of education was done, introduced a generalizable framework to other health professions thorough the world. They have taken some steps and resulted in the development of framework which focuses on providing equitable and quality Physical therapy educational opportunities<sup>(9)</sup>.

Fifty-one percent participants were not satisfied with current teaching faculties in institutes as most of the educators are not experienced and well trained. Participants respond that basic sciences like anatomy, physiology and pharmacology should be taught by specialist of these subjects not by physical therapist. Teaching faculty should be certified in teaching methodology for satisfactory outcomes and basic sciences should be taught by specialist teachers for better understand.

Councils are organizations whose members are individual professionals. In some professions it is compulsory to be a member of the professional body. This usually depends on whether or not the profession requires the professional to have a 'license to practice or to be on a professional register in order to do their career. This is related to how the profession is regulated'<sup>(10)</sup>.

As in a study the participants were hopeful in future to see their profession developed with the help of professional council and empirical commitments from the government<sup>(11)</sup>. So hundred percent participants reported in favor of establishment of physical therapy council for the satisfaction of education in the country a government regulating body is key to success for physical therapy education in Pakistan.

## CONCLUSION

It has been concluded from the above mentioned findings that physical therapy educators are not satisfied with Physical therapy education as well as services. Most of the institutes do not have proper trained faculty, infrastructure facilities like libraries, physical therapy lab facilities and purpose made infrastructure, affiliation with non medical universities. All the participants were agreed with the establishment of Physical therapy council to upgrade the profession.

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